

foreign leaders. As the foreign policy gravitational pull rightly moved to the Indo-Pacific in recent years, CORY brought the top policymakers, human rights defenders, and government witnesses to the fourth floor of the Dirksen Senate Office Building—not exactly the Diplomatic Room of the White House.

In the 115th Congress, we held 11 hearings. It was a constant beat of meetings and hearings that CORY would be leading. I was always honored to be partnered with him in organizing those efforts.

CORY grew up on a farm, so it is no wonder that he is a workhorse. Each time he gaveled in a hearing, he was professional, prepared, good-humored. And he, on more than a few occasions, allowed particularly verbose Senators to blow past their allotted time.

Nowhere did I enjoy our work together more than in the drafting and the ultimate passage of the landmark Asia Reassurance Initiative Act. Our bill, which is now the law of the land, adopts a long-term U.S. strategy for the most consequential region in the world, the Indo-Pacific. It was a credit to our foreign policy staffs—led by Igor in CORY's staff and Zack in mine—that we were able to get it past the finish line.

A fully resourced ARIA will ensure that the United States will remain a Pacific power. Investments through ARIA offer a critical counterweight to China by helping our partners in the region build defenses and defend democracy and the rule of law.

But CORY understood passage of a law alone does not equate to the implementation of policy. When ARIA was signed into law, he and I convened a series of hearings to ensure the Departments of Defense and State and the USAID were putting resources to the challenge.

The Asia-Pacific is home to 60 percent of the world's population. This fact and the wide geographic scope of the region means that we need to respond nimbly to the latest international crisis of the day.

When North Korea policy vacillated between “fire and fury” and detente, he used the subcommittee to provide critical oversight.

When China and Hong Kong authorities turned to batons and tear gas in a futile attempt to end democratic protests, he hosted one of the architects of the student-powered Umbrella Movement, Nathan Law.

When just this past year, some wished to shake down our Japanese and South Korean allies, we partnered on two resolutions, which reaffirmed our ironclad relationships to both allies.

In his farewell address, CORY said that the pillars of the Senate Chamber are principles shared by all Americans. They are immutable. CORY, it was a pleasure to work with you these past years to also strengthen the pillars of U.S. foreign policy, standing up for human rights, our allies, and the rule of law around the world.

I hope that this son of Yuma, CO, is not finished with public service yet. I am grateful for what we accomplished together on the Asia Subcommittee and even more grateful for our friendship.

My best to Jaime and your wonderful family and to you, my friend.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. LANKFORD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### PREVENT GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWNS ACT

Mr. LANKFORD. Mr. President, this all feels strangely familiar. It is the middle of December. We are facing a government shutdown, arguing behind the scenes over the final details, discussing whether we are going to do a short-term CR, wondering what is going to happen. Everyone has this sense that if we don't get the bill done by tomorrow, then we are going to end up in shutdown and all the problems that causes.

Senator HASSAN and I stand in the back and hold up our hands and say: In February of last year, we proposed a solution to this that fits this exact scenario to keep us from holding Federal workers and all of our agencies in harm's way.

The ending government shutdowns bill is designed for this moment. For whatever reason, we have not been able to agree to pass it. It is a process document. It doesn't solve all of the policy issues we have. We have real policy differences, but we should not have process differences at moments like this. It is not good for the American people. It is not good for the U.S. Senate or the U.S. Congress to stand at the precipice of a shutdown and to say: Maybe we go over; maybe we don't. Maybe we have a short-term continuing resolution; maybe we pass the 12 appropriations bills. We shouldn't ever get to that moment.

Our simple idea is not a partisan idea. Senator HASSAN and I released a simple, straightforward idea. You get to the end of the fiscal year, whenever that may be, and if we have not finished all the appropriations work, we continue working until it gets done. An automatic continuing resolution kicks in so that no Federal worker is worried that they are going to have furloughs right before Christmas; no agency is panicked about what happens next and who do I have to furlough and who do I have to keep and who is essential and who is nonessential. None of that happens. None of that waste occurs. We continue debating until we resolve the issue. That is all that it is.

We have 12 appropriations bills that are not done. Painfully, in this year of COVID, there have been only 22 total appropriations hearings in 12 months—

22. That is 12 appropriations committees, 12 months, only 22 hearings total for all of them.

We have not completed the appropriations work on time, so now we are struggling with the what-ifs. Senator HASSAN and I have a straightforward idea. Let's pass the end government shutdowns bill. Let's continue our negotiations so we don't have to be in the shadow of a shutdown again next year.

It is doable. I shouldn't be controversial. It should be obvious. When we get to a time period like this, if we are not complete, we keep working until it is done. In the meantime, we don't leave. It is the exact statement I have heard from everybody in the Chamber so far today. We need to stay until it is done. I agree. That should be the process every time we get to this moment. We stay until the work gets done. Our bill just mandates that, and it keeps us from ever having to say the word “shutdown” again.

So I would encourage this body again, as I did all of last year, as I did all of this year: Let's end government shutdowns. Let's keep debating the policy. We have differences. We know that. But let's end the thought of government shutdowns.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Michigan.

#### CORONAVIRUS

Mr. PETERS. Mr. President, 2020 has been a year of immense challenges. We are in the middle of an unprecedented economic and public health crisis. Small businesses have been forced to shutter or are barely staying afloat. Workers are out of jobs through no fault of their own, and folks are stressed about feeding their families and keeping a roof over their heads. Healthcare workers are exhausted—pressed to their breaking points from treating patients with COVID.

But, thankfully, there is light at the end of the tunnel. With the recent FDA vaccine emergency use authorization, Michiganians and Americans are finally starting to receive much needed reinforcements to combat and to control this virus.

Although there is light at the end of the tunnel, we know the next 2 or 3 months or more are going to be difficult. We cannot let our guard down. We must continue to wear a mask, practice social distancing, and wash our hands. We all can—and we must—play an important role in defeating this virus, and we can do that if we work together.

Working together is the key to get through this pandemic. We know what happens when we work together here in this Chamber. Early on in this pandemic, we worked together to pass the CARES Act, which provided vital resources and support to keep families and workers afloat.

We worked together to pass additional aid for small businesses, for testing, for healthcare providers, and for hospitals. And, right now, we need to